

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 205895  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 DODE-00 MCE-00 EB-08  
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 INRE-00  
SSO-00 SS-15 /058 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:LPFEIFLE:MCH  
APPROVED BY ARA:JABUSHNELL  
HA:OJONES  
ARA/CEN:WMATTHEWS  
ARA/RPP:SQUIGG

-----093339 150052Z /62

O 150000Z AUG 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 205895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, MASS, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR TEAR GAS

REF: GUATEMALA 4723

1. AS THE EMBASSY WILL RECALL, IN GENERAL THE DEPARTMENT'S POLICY TOWARD SALE OF MUNITION LIST ITEMS TO GUATEMALA IS TO APPROVE EXPORT LICENSES FOR ROUTINE SALES OF ITEMS DESTINED TO THE MILITARY, CONSIDER MAJOR SALES ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS, AND TO DENY LICENSES FOR THE SALE OF ITEMS FOR THE POLICE. MANY CONSIDER TEAR GAS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ITEM FOR COMMERCIAL SALE TO POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES. IN THE LAST YEAR THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ONE REQUEST FOR A LICENSE TO SELL TEAR GAS TO THE GUATEMALAN POLICE AND IT WAS DENIED. (WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT HAS APPROVED EXPORT LICENSES FOR TEAR GAS  
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TO MEXICO, HONDURAS, COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR, AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES.

2. GIVEN VILLAGRAN'S SEEMING PENCHANT TO ACT WITHOUT CONCURRENCE OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND GIVEN THE POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY BE MAKING THIS REQUEST TO ADVANCE HIS OWN PERSONAL POSITION IN THE LUCAS ADMINISTRATION RATHER THAN

BECAUSE OF A REAL CRITICAL SHORTAGE OF TEAR GAS, PRIOR

TO DEPARTMENT'S DECIDING WHETHER TO GRANT THIS REQUEST  
IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KNOW WHAT THE PRESENT GOG INVENTORY  
OF TEAR GAS IS. WITHOUT FORMALLY ASKING THE GOG AND  
WITHOUT IMPLYING THAT WE WOULD APPROVE THE REQUEST, THE  
EMBASSY IF POSSIBLE SHOULD DISCREETLY FIND OUT ASAP HOW  
MUCH TEAR GAS THE GOG IN FACT DOES HAVE LEFT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, INCAPACITATING AGENTS, POLICE FORCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE205895  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** LPFEIFLE:MCH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780332-0913  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780863/aaaacaez.tel  
**Line Count:** 70  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 91fd8563-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 GUATEMALA 4723  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 14 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1736163  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR TEAR GAS  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, MASS, GT, US  
**To:** GUATEMALA  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/91fd8563-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014